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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified application is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct a spelling error at page 3; at page 4 to conform with the drawings; and at pages 5 & 6 to introduce reference numerals for the controller 62 and tactile marker 55 to correspond with a separate drawing amendment being proposed.

Applicant traverses the omnibus rejection of claims 1-15 under Section 102(b) over Wakabayashi (JP 61-150065A).

Applicant notes the substantial breadth of interpretation of Applicant's claims being proffered by the examiner, which correspondingly enlarges claim scope in later infringement analysis of the file wrapper. However, the examiner has failed to afford due weight to specific features and cooperation of features which distinguish over the applied reference.

Indeed, the applied reference is written in Japanese, and was provided in the office action without even the typical English abstract thereof.

On 10/18/02, the undersigned attorney held a phone call with the examiner attempting to obtain any available English translation of the reference, especially in view of the examiner's quite specific use thereof as presented in para. 3 of the office action.

The examiner indicated that he had no written translation, and had obtained an informal oral translation from a translator in the USPTO; and Applicant was required to obtain his own translation, notwithstanding the various provisions in the MPEP pertaining to evidence and translations of foreign documents.

The undersigned attorney then contacted supervisor Lee regarding the examiner's failure to provide an English translation or abstract of the applied reference; and

supervisor Lee uncovered the existence of an English abstract of the reference, which was then faxed to this attorney that same day.

Attached to this amendment is a copy of that two-page English abstract which is being provided to ensure that the file wrapper is complete. It is also noted for the record that the examiner's statements in para. 3 of the office action appear to be the verbatim equivalents of that English abstract, and as such, that abstract is material to the examination of the present application.

Notwithstanding that English abstract of the Wakabayashi reference, and the examiner's corresponding repetition thereof in para. 3 of the office action, it is not seen how that reference is relevant or is anticipatory of all fifteen claims being rejected without distinction.

Independent claims 1, 5, & 12 recite a navigation area not disclosed in the Wakabayashi abstract; and plural tactile guides extending therefrom which are not disclosed in the Wakabayashi abstract. The Wakabayashi abstract merely discloses a movable braille device 43 isolated near card port 3.

Claims 2, 6, & 13 recite a vibration mechanism for a selected tactile guide extending from the user interface element to the navigation area which is not disclosed in the Wakabayashi abstract. The Wakabayashi abstract merely discloses a vibrating device 43 isolated near card port 3.

Claims 3, 7, & 14 recite a configuration in which the entire length of the tactile guide can vibrate, which is not disclosed in the Wakabayashi abstract. The Wakabayashi abstract merely discloses a local device 43 isolated near card port 3.

Claims 4, 8, & 15 recite an associated tactile marker for the extending tactile guide which is not disclosed in the Wakabayashi abstract. Instead, the Wakabayashi abstract discloses a singular movable braille device 43.

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Independent method claims 9 & 10 recite identifying and vibrating a tactile guide extending from a navigation area to the identified user element which is not disclosed in the Wakabayashi abstract. The Wakabayashi abstract merely discloses a local vibrating device 43 isolated near card port 3 having no leading function from any other area in the apparatus except locally at card port 3.

Claim 11 recites repetition of the identifying and vibrating steps for the tactile guide which is not disclosed in the Wakabayashi abstract. The Wakabayashi abstract merely discloses the device 43 at the card port, which would be used once, not repeated, by a user of the automated teller machine.

Claims 12-15 additionally disclose a network, host, and plurality of the self-service terminals cooperating therewith which are not disclosed in the Wakabayashi abstract. The Wakabayashi abstract discloses a single automatic teller machine.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the omnibus rejection of claims 1-15 under Section 102(b) over Wakabayashi is warranted and is requested.

It is noted that Wakabayashi illustrates an automatic teller machine having a card insertion port 3, below which is located the movable braille device 43. Quite clearly, that device 43 is local to the port 3, notwithstanding the large surface area of the teller machine, and the various other user elements located therein. In operation, the blind person must hunt for that device 43 over the entire teller machine.

Applicant's recited invention is quite different in structure and operation. It provides the common navigation area 50 from which the several tactile guides 52a-d extend along the fascia to the respective user elements 38-46. In operation, the visually impaired user can start from the common navigation area and find a specific tactile path to the corresponding user element. This configuration and capability are clearly not disclosed or suggested in the Wakabayashi

abstract.

In this regard, it is noted that reference Kunio ('319) was cited by the Applicant, and that reference includes plural vibrators 62 associated with the braille elements 60. This reference, like the Wakabayashi abstract, discloses the use of **local** vibration at a specific site to assist the visually impaired user, yet that user must still hunt for that local vibration.

Applicant's invention, in stark contrast, provides elongated tactile guides leading from a common area to the corresponding user elements to better assist the user by providing corresponding specific paths to the respective user element. This configuration and capability have well apparent advantages over those of the Wakabayashi abstract and the Kunio reference.

Accordingly, in view of the remarkable differences of Applicant's invention over the art of record, claims 16-20 are being added for enhanced claim scope.

Independent claim 16 recites the terminal 14 including elongate tactile guides 52 extending from the common navigation area 50 to the plural user interface elements 38-46 incorporated in the fascia 32. This combination of elements is disclosed in the specification at pages 4 and 5, and is illustrated in the figures, and has the many advantages attributable thereto.

The movable braille device 43 in Wakabayashi is local to the card port 3, and clearly does not extend along the fascia from a common navigation area.

Claim 17 recites the ridge form of the elongate tactile guide as disclosed at page 5, with the device 43 in Wakabayashi being local and without apparent ridge.

Claim 18 recites means for selectively vibrating each of the tactile guides 52 as disclosed at pages 5 and 6. In this way the elongate path provided by the tactile guides vibrates to permit the user to navigate across the fascia. The local

vibrating device 43 in Wakabayashi does not provide such elongate path for the user to navigate across the surface of the apparatus.

Claim 19 recites the tactile guides 52 being disposed in corresponding recesses in the fascia for vibration from the common navigation area to the corresponding user element as disclosed at page 5. The vibrating device 43 in Wakabayashi is local to the card port 3, and clearly does not follow any recessed path over the apparatus.

Claim 20 recites the various forms of user elements 40-46 and their corresponding tactile guides 52b-e from the common navigation area as disclosed at page 5. Wakabayashi discloses the local device 43 directly below the card port 3, in a configuration independent from the remainder of the exposed surface elements.

Note also in this regard the independent vibrators 62 in the Kunio reference. Those distributed local vibrators 62 have no corresponding tactile guides thereto, nor guides emanating from a common area.

The additional references cited, but not applied, have been noted.

In accordance with the duty imposed by 37 CFR 1.104 and MPEP sections 707, 707.05, 707.07, and 707.07(g), the examiner is requested to reconsider all the art of record, including the additional references not applied, to ensure full compliance with the required thoroughness of examination.

In re Portola Packaging, Inc., 42 USPQ2d 1295 (Fed. Cir. 1997) emphasizes the importance of complying with this duty to ensure that all references of record have been fully considered by the examiner in the various combinations thereof. And, the Board of Appeals has further elaborated on the importance of this examiner duty in Ex parte Schricker, 56 USPQ2d 1723 (B.P.A.I. 2000).

In view of the above remarks, allowance of all claims 1-20 over the art of record is warranted and is requested.

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Please charge the required fee for added claims 16-20, and any deficiency associated with this amendment, to Deposit Account No. 14-0225 of NCR Corporation in accordance with attached Fee Transmittal for FY 2002.

Also attached hereto is a proposed drawing correction conforming with the corresponding changes made to the specification.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix: pages 11-14

Attachments:
English Abstract JP-61150065A (2 pages);
Proposed Drawing Amendment (3 pages); and
One-page Fee Transmittal for FY 2002

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Appendix
Amended paragraphs and claims

[Paragraph commencing at page 3, line 4] By virtue of this aspect of the present invention, an SST is provided that guides the user through a transaction by vibrating a tactile guide associated with the next user interface element to be [interact] interacted with, thus a visually impaired user can easily locate the next user interface element to be used by running his/her fingers along the vibrating guide.

[Paragraph commencing at page 3, line 25] Reference is now made to Fig 1, which is a block diagram of a self-service terminal system 10 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. The system 10 is owned and operated by a financial institution and comprises a conventional host 12 interconnected to a plurality of SSTs 14 (only two are shown as 14a and 14b) by a secure network 16. The SSTs 14 are ATMs. As is well known in the art, the host 12 includes an authorization facility 18 for authorizing transactions received from the ATMs, and a back-office facility 20.

[Paragraph commencing at page 5, line 1] Each guide 52 extends from the navigation area 50 to a user interface element. Each guide 52 branches from this common portion 51b to a user interface element. As all of the guides 52 branch from this common portion 51b, a user can move his/her finger along the common portion 51b to locate the correct guide 52, as will be described in more detail below. [Although not] As shown schematically in [the Figs] Fig 3, each guide 52 has an associated tactile marker 55 located on the shelf 53 and adjacent the common portion 51b at the point at which that guide branches from the common portion 51b.

[Paragraph commencing at page 5, line 25] Each motor 56 is

coupled to an ATM controller [(not shown)] 62 shown schematically in Fig 2 that controls the application flow of the ATM 14. In use, the controller [(not shown)] 62 identifies which user interface element a user has to interact with to proceed with a transaction; for example, to initiate a transaction the user must enter his/her card into the card entry slot 42.

[Paragraph commencing at page 6, line 1] The controller [(not shown)] 62 then determines which guide 52 is associated with the element that is to be interacted with. For example, guide 52c is associated with card entry slot 42.

[Paragraph commencing at page 6, line 4] The controller [(not shown)] 62 then energizes the motor 56 associated with the guide for that element (for example, guide 52c) to vibrate that guide 52.

[Paragraph commencing at page 6, line 6] The controller [(not shown)] 62 then detects when the user has completed an interaction with that element; for example, when the user has entered his/her card. The controller [(not shown)] 62 does this by receiving a message from the user interface element or an element associated with the user interface element (such as a card reader (not shown)). When an interaction with a user interface element has been completed, the controller [(not shown)] 62 de-activates the motor 56 associated with the guide for that element, so that the guide ceases vibrating.

[Paragraph commencing at page 6, line 13] The controller [(not shown)] 62 repeats this process until a transaction has been completed.

12. (amended) A self-service terminal system comprising:
a network;

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a host; and

a plurality of self-service terminals connected [to] by the network to the host, each of the terminals including a user interface including a navigation area and a plurality of tactile guides, each tactile guide extending from the navigation area to one of the user interface elements, so that a user can locate a user interface element using the tactile guide.